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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2143	

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/939,136	BROWN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jude J. Jean-Gilles	2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 July 2005</u>.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-30,32-40 and 43-76* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-30,32-40 and 43-76* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 August 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/15/2002</u>.
4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Action is in regards to the Reply received on 07/01/2005.

Response to Amendment

1.   This action is responsive to the application filed on 08/24/2001. Claims 1-29, 32-

39, 43-62, 64, 66, 68, 70, and 72-74 have been amended. Claims 31, and 41-42 are

cancelled. Claims 75 and 76 are newly added. Claims 1-30, 32-40, and 43-76 are

pending. Claims 1-30, 32-40, and 43-76 represent a method and apparatus for "an

email messaging System and Method for enhanced rich text delivery."

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30, 32-40, and 43-76 have been

carefully considered, are deemed fully persuasive in light of the prior Art of record.

However Applicant's arguments are deemed moot in view of the following new ground

of rejection as explained here below.

Information Disclosure Statement

3.   The references listed on the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on

02/15/2002 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449A).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5.   **Claim 1-13, 25-30, 32-40, and 73-75** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being unpatentable by Mintz, U.S. Patent No. 6,250,930 B1.

Regarding claim 1, Mintz discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system

interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a

first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of

the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient

selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user

interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server (fig. 1 items 110,

120, and 125), a method comprising :

after said e-mail message has been originated by an originating user of the first user

group, directing the e-mail message onto an e-mail enhancement path (column 4, lines

44-58);

adding additional rich media rich media content to said e-mail message using the e-mail

enhancement path to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, directing

the enhanced e-mail message from the e-mail enhancement path to the intended

recipient (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67).

Regarding claim 2, Mintz discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said of

directing the e-mail message onto the e-mail enhancement path includes receiving the

e-mail message at said first server (column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 3, Mintz discloses the method of claim 2 wherein said receiving

includes using TCP/IP socket communication (column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 4, Mintz discloses the method of claim 2 wherein said receiving

step includes   using direct API access (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 5, Mintz discloses the method of claim 2 wherein said directing

the e-mail message to the e-mail enhancement path further includes the steps of

altering the e-mail message, and directing the altered e-mail message to a second

server located on the e-mail enhancement path (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines

25-67).

Regarding claim 6, Mintz discloses the method of claim 5 wherein said e-mail

message includes a header section, which contains information regarding the

originating user and the intended recipient, and wherein said altering the e-mail

message includes separating and modifying the header section in a predetermined way

(column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 7, Mintz discloses the method of claim 6 wherein said

separating and modifying the header section includes   parsing and temporarily storing

the originating user and intended recipient information contained in the header section

in a designated file separate from the e-mail message (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 8, Mintz discloses the method of claim 6 wherein said modifying the header section in said predetermined way includes the steps of inactivating said information regarding the originating user and intended recipient contained in the header section, and adding an alternate header section containing active information regarding an alternate sender and an alternate message recipient (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 9, Mintz discloses the method of claim 7 wherein said inactivating step includes adding a predetermined prefix to the originating user and intended recipient information contained in the header section such that said information is inactivated (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 10, Mintz discloses the method of claim 7 wherein said adding the alternate header section includes specifying said second server as the alternate message recipient (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 11, Mintz discloses the method of claim 7 wherein said directing the enhanced message to the intended recipient includes the steps of deleting the alternate header section, and reactivating the originating user and intended recipient information contained in the header section of the e-mail message (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 12, Mintz discloses the method of claim 5 wherein said directing the altered e-mail message to the second server includes using TCP/IP socket communication (column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 13, Mintz discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said directing the e-mail message onto the e-mail enhancement path includes adding a request for additional rich media content to the e-mail message (column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 25, Mintz discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said messaging system further defines an in-coming e-mail message path to each user of the first user group from the first server at least for receiving an external e-mail message originating outside the first user group and directed to one or more of the users of the first user group and wherein said directing the e-mail message onto the enhancement path includes routing the e-mail message to an out-going message path, which includes the enhancement path, and which includes at least one different process as compared to the incoming e-mail message path (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 26, Mintz discloses the method of claim 25 wherein said routing the e-mail message to an out-going message path includes directing the e-mail message through a second server, which second server is outside of the in-coming e-mail message path (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 27, Mintz discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said adding additional rich media content to the e-mail message includes creating one or more rich

media templates to serve as said additional rich media content (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 28, Mintz discloses the method of claim 27 wherein said creating one or more templates includes implementing a set of computer code compatible with the Internet, said set of computer code including instructions for displaying specified rich media rich media content (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 29, Mintz discloses the method of claim 28 wherein said creating one or more rich media templates further includes adding an insertion tag for identifying a point in said rich media template at which point at least a portion of said e-mail message is to be inserted into the rich media template (column 6, lines 42-64; column 7, lines 1-32).

Regarding claim 30, Mintz discloses the method of claim 28 wherein said set of computer code is in HTML (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64;). Also those of ordinary skill in the art know how to implement the disclosure of Mintz with HTML computer code.

Regarding claim 31, claim 31 has been cancelled.

Regarding claim 32, Mintz discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an out-bound e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (I) another user in the first user group and (ii) a

remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, a messaging configuration comprising: means for adding additional rich media content to said out-bound e-mail message; means for routing said out-bound e-mail message to said means for adding additional rich media content, after said out-bound e-mail message has been originated by an originating user of the first user group, to add the additional rich media content thereby producing an enhanced e-mail message; and means for directing the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 33, Mintz discloses the messaging configuration of claim 32 further comprising means for receiving an in-bound e-mail message intended for transfer to any user of the first user group (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 34, Mintz discloses the messaging configuration of claim 33 wherein said receiving means includes means for routing the in-bound e-mail message to one of a plurality of processing stations (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 35, Mintz discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, a messaging

configuration comprising: a first arrangement for adding additional rich media content to said e-mail message; a second arrangement for receiving the e-mail message, after said e-mail message has been originated by an originating user of the first user group, and for routing the e-mail message to the first arrangement to add the additional rich media content to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and a third arrangement for directing the enhanced e-mail message from the e-mail enhancement path to the intended recipient (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 36, Mintz discloses the in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, a messaging configuration comprising: a first auxiliary server for directing the e-mail message to a first location, after said e-mail message has been placed en route to the intended recipient; and at the first location, a second auxiliary server for adding additional rich media content to said e-mail message to produce an enhanced e-mail message and, thereafter, for directing the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 37, Mintz discloses the messaging configuration of claim 36 wherein said first auxiliary server is configured for receiving an in-bound e-mail

message intended for transfer to any user of the first user group (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 38, Mintz discloses the messaging configuration of claim 37 wherein said first auxiliary server includes means for routing the in-bound e-mail message to one of a plurality of processing stations (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 37, Mintz discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said system further defining an in-coming e-mail message path to each user of the first user group from the first server at least for receiving an external e-mail message originating outside the first user group and directed to one or more of the users of the first user group, an e-mail message enhancement configuration comprising: an out-going e-mail message path configured for enhancing an out-going e-mail message originated by any user in said first user group, said out-going e-mail message path being defined at least in part between the first server and each user of the first user group, and including at least one different node as compared to the incoming e-mail message path said outgoing e-mail message path including an e-mail enhancement path for receiving said e-mail message after said email message has been originated by an originating user of the first user

group and for adding additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message thereby producing an enhanced e-mail message (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64;).

Regarding claim 40, Mintz discloses the e-mail message enhancement configuration of claim 39 wherein said out-going e-mail message path includes a second server located at said different node (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 41, claim 41 has been cancelled.

Regarding claim 42, claim 42 has been cancelled.

Regarding claim 73, Mintz discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, an enhancement server comprising: means for receiving the e-mail message, after the e-mail message has been placed en route to the intended recipient; means for adding additional rich media content to said e-mail message to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, means for rerouting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 74, Mintz discloses a computer program arrangement in a computer readable medium for use in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced

through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first

server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the

first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient

selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user

interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said computer

program arrangement comprising: first instructions for receiving the e-mail message,

after the e-mail message has been originated by an originating user of the first user

group; second instructions for adding additional rich media content to said e-mail

message to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and third instructions for rerouting

the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient (column 4, lines 44-58; column

5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 75, Mintz discloses the method of claim 1 wherein said e-mail

message includes a body, which contains a portion of the e-Mail message viewable by

the originating user, and wherein said adding addidonal rich media content includes

adding additional rich media content to the body of said e-mail message (column 4,

lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Regarding claim 76, Mintz discloses the messaging configuration of claim 32

wherein said out-bound e-mail message includes a body, and wherein said means for

adding additional rich media content includes means for adding said additional rich

media content to the body of said message (column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-

67; column 6, lines 42-64).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described
> as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to
> be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
> obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which
> said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the
> invention was made.

7. **Claims 14-24, and 43-72** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Mintz in view of Bereiter, U.S. Patent No 6,185,606 B1, in

further view of Elliott et al (Elliott), U.S. Patent 5,867,495.

Regarding claim 14, Mintz discloses teaches the invention substantially as

claimed. Mintz discloses the method of claim 13 but does not specifically disclose a

method wherein said adding said request for additional rich media content to said e-

mail message includes providing a validation of the request for additional rich media

content such that said additional rich media content is added to said e-mail message

responsive to said validation.

In the same field of endeavor, Bereiter discloses a method in which "... an

automatic e-mail agent that receives incoming e-mail and triggers the activation of the

attachment without human involvement. The e-mail agent would thus run as a

background task and await input from either the point-to-point network connection of

the e-mail subsystem. When an input was received, the agent would then validate and

process the message for display ... *[see* Bereiter, *column 5, lines 22-329]*.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the networking art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Bereiter's teachings of a method an validation of a request for additional rich media content, with the enhanced e-mail within an enhancement path teachings of Mintz, for the purpose of "*to allow such multimedia-enhanced e-mail to be directly routed to a desired set of recipients without requiring such recipients to have an active connection to the Internet...*" as stated by Mintz lines 25-30 of column 2. By this rationale **claim 14** is rejected.

Regarding claim 15, the combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of claim 14 wherein said adding the request for additional rich media content further includes inserting one or more reference tags into said e-mail message (see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 16, the combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of claim 15 wherein said providing the validation of the request for additional rich media content includes the steps of assigning a desired set of rules for said validation, and generating the validation according to the desired set of rules(see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 17, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of claim 15 wherein said inserting one or more reference tags into said e-mail message includes adding a message ID tag for identifying the e-mail message, which message ID tag is unique to said e-mail message(see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 18, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of claim 15 wherein said inserting one or more reference tags into said e-mail message

includes adding a group ID tag for identifying the e-mail message as being sent by said

first user group(see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 19, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of

claim 15 wherein said inserting one or more reference tags into said e-mail message

includes adding a template ID tag for identifying the additional rich media rich media

content to be added to the e-mail message(see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 20, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of

claim 19 wherein said adding the template ID tag is performed responsive to a

specified action taken by the originating user(see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 21, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of

claim 19 wherein said first user group is subject to control at an administrative level, and

wherein said adding the template ID tag is performed responsive to an administrative

selection rather than responsive to action taken by the originating user(see Bereiter,

column 3, lines 50-61).

Regarding claim 22, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of

claim 15 further comprising recording said reference tags in a database(see Bereiter,

column 3, lines 50-61).

Regarding claim 23, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of

claim 15 wherein said e-mail message includes a header section, which contains

information regarding the originating user and the intended recipient, and wherein said

inserting one or more reference tags into said e-mail message includes adding one or

more of said reference tags to the header section of the e-mail message(see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 24, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the method of claim 15 wherein said e-mail message includes a header section, which contains information regarding the originating user and the intended recipient, and wherein said inserting one or more reference tags into said e-mail message includes adding one or more of said reference tags to the e-mail message outside of the header section. (see Bereiter, *column 3, lines 50-61*).

Regarding claim 43, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of:

after said email message has been originated by an originating user of the first user group, adding a request for desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message and placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient (see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

directing the e-mail message to a first location inside the firewall;

at the first location, identifying the request for desired additional rich media rich media content in the e-mail message and providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content (see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

forwarding the e-mail message to a second location outside the firewall; at the second location, adding the desired additional rich media rich media content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 44, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses in a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: after said e-mail message has been originated by an originating user of the first user group, directing the e-mail message to a first location inside the firewall; at the first location, adding a request for desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content; forwarding

the e-mail message to a second location outside the firewall; at the second location,

adding the desired additional rich media rich media content to said e-mail message

responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter,

redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4,

lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4,

lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 45, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses in a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: adding a request for

desired additional rich media rich media content to the, e-mail message and placing the

e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, directing the e-mail message to a

first location inside the firewall; at the first location, identifying the request for desired

additional rich media rich media content in the e-mail message and providing a

validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content according

to a predetermined set of rules; forwarding the e-mail message to a second location

outside the firewall; at the second location, adding the desired additional rich media rich

media content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an

enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to .

the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column

6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 46, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: placing said e-mail

message en route to the intended recipient, directing the e-mail message to a first

location inside the firewall; at the first location, adding a request for desired additional

rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and providing a validation of the

request for desired additional rich media rich media content according to a

predetermined set of rules; forwarding the e-mail message to a second location outside

the firewall; at the second location, adding the desired additional rich media rich media

content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-

mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended

recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64;

also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 47, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: adding a request for

desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and placing the

e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, directing the e-mail message to a

first location inside the firewall; at the first location, identifying the request for desired

additional rich media rich media content in the e-mail message and providing a

validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content; forwarding

the e-mail message, after said providing the validation, to a second location inside the

firewall; at the second location, selectively adding the desired additional rich media rich

media content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an

enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to

the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column

6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 48, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: placing said e-mail

message en route to the intended recipient; directing the e-mail message to a first

location inside the firewall; at the first location, adding a request for desired additional

rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and providing a validation of the

request for desired additional rich media rich media content; forwarding the e-mail

message, after said providing the validation, to a second location inside the firewall; at

the second location, selectively adding the desired additional rich media rich media

content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-

mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended

recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64;

also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 49, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

inside the firewall; means for adding the desired additional rich media rich media

content to the e-mail message responsive to the validation to produce an enhanced e-

mail message, said receiving means being located outside the firewall; and means for

redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4,

lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4,

lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 52, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: means for placing said e-mail

message en route to the intended recipient, means for directing the e-mail message to a

first location inside the firewall; means for receiving the e-mail message at the first

location, for adding a request for desired additional rich media rich media content to the

received e-mail message and for providing a validation of the request for desired

additional rich media rich media content, said identifying means being located inside the

firewall; means for adding the desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-

mail message responsive to the validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message,

said receiving means being located outside the firewall; and means for redirecting the

group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: adding a request for desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, directing the e-mail message to a first location inside the firewall; at the first location, identifying the request for desired additional rich media rich media content in the e-mail message and providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content according to a predetermined set of rules; forwarding the e-mail message to a second location inside the firewall; at the second location, selectively adding the desired additional rich media rich media content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 50, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user group and said first server, a method comprising the steps of: placing said e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, directing the e-mail message to a first location inside the firewall; at the first location, adding a request for desired additional

rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content according to a predetermined set of rules; forwarding the e-mail message to a second location inside the firewall; at the second location, selectively adding the desired additional rich media rich media content to said e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and thereafter, redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 51, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user group and said first server, a configuration comprising: means for adding a request for desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, means for directing the e-mail message to a first location inside the firewall; means for receiving the e-mail message at the first location, for identifying the request for desired additional rich media rich media content in the received e-mail message and for providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media rich media content, said identifying means being located

enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58;

column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 53, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first arrangement for adding a

request for desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message and

for placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient; a second

arrangement located within the firewall for selectively receiving the e-mail message

within the firewall, for identifying the request for desired additional rich media rich media

content in the received e-mail message and for providing a validation of the request for

desired additional rich media rich media content; a third arrangement for selectively

adding the desired additional rich media rich media content to the e-mail message

responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message including the

desired additional rich media rich media content, said third arrangement being located

outside the firewall and configured for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the

intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6,

lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 54, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first arrangement for placing

the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient; a second arrangement located

within the firewall for receiving the e-mail message, for adding a request for desired

additional rich media content to the received e-mail message and for providing a

validation of the request for desired additional rich media content; a third arrangement

for selectively adding the desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message

responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message including the

desired additional rich media content, said third arrangement being located outside the

firewall and configured for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended

recipient.

Regarding claim 55, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first enhancement

configuration within the firewall, said first enhancement configuration being configured

for adding a request for desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message,

placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, receiving the e-mail

message within the firewall, identifying the request for desired additional rich media

content in the received e-mail message, providing a validation of the request for desired

additional rich media content, and directing the received e-mail message to a

predetermined location outside the firewall; and a second enhancement configuration

located at said predetermined location, said second enhancement configuration being

configured for adding the desired additional rich media content to the forwarded e-mail

message, responsive to the validation, to produce an enhanced e-mail message, and

redirecting the enhanced e-mail message from the second enhancement server to the

intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6,

lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 56, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first enhancement

configuration within the firewall, said first enhancement configuration being configured

for placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient receiving the e-mail

message within the firewall, adding a request for desired additional rich media content

to the received e-mail message, providing a validation of the request for desired

additional rich media content, and directing the received e-mail message to a

predetermined location outside the firewall; and a second enhancement configuration

located at said predetermined location, said second enhancement configuration being

configured for adding the desired additional rich media content to the forwarded e-mail

message, responsive to the validation, to produce an enhanced e-mail message, and

redirecting the enhanced e-mail message from the second enhancement server to the

intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6,

lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 57, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: means for adding a request for

desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message and for placing the e-mail

message en route to the intended recipient; means located within the firewall for

receiving the e-mail message, for identifying the request for desired additional rich

media content in the received e-mail message and for providing a validation of the

request for desired additional rich media content; and means located within the firewall

for adding the desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message responsive

to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message and for redirecting the

enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58;

column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 58, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: means for placing the e-mail

message en route to the intended recipient; means located within the firewall for

receiving the e-mail message, for adding a request for desired additional rich media

content to the received e-mail message and for providing a validation of the request for

desired additional rich media content; and means located within the firewall for adding

the desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message responsive to said

validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message and for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 59, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first arrangement for adding a request for desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message and for placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient; a second arrangement for selectively receiving the e-mail message within the firewall; a third arrangement for identifying the request for desired additional rich media content in the received e-mail message and for providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media content; a fourth arrangement for adding the desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message including the desired additional rich media content; and a fifth arrangement for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 60, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first arrangement for placing

the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient; a second arrangement for

selectively receiving the e-mail message within the firewall; a third arrangement for

adding a request for desired additional rich media content to the received e-mail

message and for providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media

content; a fourth arrangement for adding the desired additional rich media content to the

e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message

including the desired additional rich media content; and a fifth arrangement for

redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4,

lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4,

lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 61, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a first enhancement

configuration within the firewall, said first enhancement configuration being configured

for adding a request for desired additional rich media content to the e-mail message,

placing the e-mail message en route to the intended recipient, receiving the e-mail

message within the firewall, identifying the request for desired additional rich media

content in the received e-mail message, providing a validation of the request for desired

additional rich media content, and directing the received e-mail message to a

predetermined location inside the firewall; and a second enhancement configuration

located at said predetermined location, said second enhancement configuration being

configured for adding the desired additional rich media content to the forwarded e-mail

message, responsive to the validation, to produce an enhanced e-mail message, and

redirecting the enhanced e-mail message from the second enhancement server to the

intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6,

lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 62, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses A computer

program arrangement in a computer readable medium for use in a multi-user e-mail

messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user

group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said computer program arrangement comprising: first instructions for

directing the e-mail message to a predetermined location after said e-mail message has

been originated by an originating user of the first user group; at the predetermined

location, second instructions for adding additional rich media content to said e-mail

message to produce an enhanced e-mail message; and third instructions for directing

the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-

58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-

50);

Regarding claim 63, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses The computer

program arrangement of claim 62 wherein said first, second and third instructions are

distributed at least among the first user group and the first server.

Regarding claim 64, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses A computer

program arrangement in a computer readable medium for use in a multi-user e-mail

messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user

group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, said computer program arrangement comprising: first

instructions for receiving the e-mail message within the firewall after said e-mail

message has been originated by an originating user of the first user group, said e-mail

message including a request for desired additional rich media content; second

instructions for identifying the request for desired additional rich media content in the

received e-mail message; third instructions for providing a validation of the request for

desired additional rich media content; fourth instructions for forwarding the received e-

mail message to predetermined location outside the firewall; at the predetermined

location, fifth instructions for adding the desired additional rich media content to the

forwarded e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail

message; and sixth instructions for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the

intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6,

lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 65, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses The computer

program arrangement of claim 64, wherein said messaging system further includes a

second server located at the predetermined location, and wherein said first, second,

third, fourth, fifth and sixth instructions are distributed at least among the first user group

and the first and second servers(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-

67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 66, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses computer

program arrangement in a computer readable medium for use in a multi-user e-mail

messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first user

group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, said computer program arrangement comprising: first

instructions for receiving the e-mail message within the firewall after said e-mail

message has been originated by an originating user of the first user group, said e-mail

message including a request for desired additional rich media content; second

instructions for identifying the request for desired additional rich media content in the

received e-mail message; third instructions for providing a validation of the request for

desired additional rich media content; fourth instructions for forwarding the received e-

mail message to a predetermined location inside the firewall; at the predetermined

location, fifth instructions for adding the desired additional rich media content to the

forwarded e-mail message responsive to said validation to produce an enhanced e-mail

message; and sixth instructions for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the

intended recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6,

lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 67, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses The computer

program arrangement of claim 66 wherein said first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth

instructions are distributed at least among the first user group and the first server(see

Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see

Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 68, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, a configuration comprising: means for allowing an originating user of

the e-mail message to add a request for desired additional rich media content to the e-

mail message, for providing a validation of the request for desired additional rich media

content according to a set of desired criteria, and for directing the e-mail message to a

specified location; and means for performing additional processing located at the

specified location configured for adding the desired additional rich media content to the

e-mail message, responsive to said validation, to produce an enhanced e-mail

message, and for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended

recipient(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64;

also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 69, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses The e-mail

messaging system of claim 68 further including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server and wherein said predetermined location is situated outside

of the firewall(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines

42-64; also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 70, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message, said e-

mail message being originated by an originating user and including a body, which

contains a portion of the e-mail message viewable by the originating user, and for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: means for allowing the

originating user to add a reference tag to the e-mail message before the e-mail

message has been originated by the originating user, which reference tag is positioned

outside of the body of the e-mail message, and for directing the e-mail message,

including the reference tag, to a specified location outside of the firewall; and at the

specified location, means for adding additional rich media content to the e-mail

message, responsive to the reference tag, to produce an enhanced e-mail message,

and for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz;

column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter;

column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 71, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses the e-mail

messaging system of claim 70 wherein said preprocessing means further includes

means for validating the reference tag according to a set of desired criteria after the e-

mail message, including the reference tag, has been originated by the originating

user(see Mintz; column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64;

also, see Bereiter; column 4, lines 1-50);

Regarding claim 72, The combination Mintz- Bereiter discloses In a multi-user

e-mail messaging system interfaced through the Internet and including at least a first

user group sharing at least a first server, which first server is, in turn, interfaced to the

Internet such that any user of the first user group may send an e-mail message for

transfer to an intended recipient selected as at least one of (i) another user in the first

user group and (ii) a remote user interfaced to the Internet by a connection other than

said first server, said messaging system including a firewall surrounding said first user

group and said first server, a configuration comprising: a local e-mail server system

located within the firewall and including an e-mail client plug-in for allowing an

originating user of the first user group, which originating user originates said e-mail

message, to add a request for desired additional rich media content to the e-mail

message, a local enhancement server for providing a validation of the request for

desired additional rich media content according to a set of predetermined criteria after

the e-mail message, including the request for desired additional rich media content, has

been originated by the originating user of the first user group, and also for directing the

e-mail message, including the request for desired additional rich media content, to a

predetermined location outside of the firewall; and an external enhancement server at

the predetermined location for adding the desired additional rich media content to the e-

mail message responsive to the validation to produce an enhanced e-mail message,

and for redirecting the enhanced e-mail message to the intended recipient(see Mintz;

column 4, lines 44-58; column 5, lines 25-67; column 6, lines 42-64; also, see Bereiter;

column 4, lines 1-50);

Conclusion

8.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE NON-FINAL.**   Any inquiry concerning this

communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to Jude

Jean-Gilles whose telephone number is (571) 272-3914. The examiner can normally be

reached on Monday-Thursday and every other Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, David Wiley, can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-
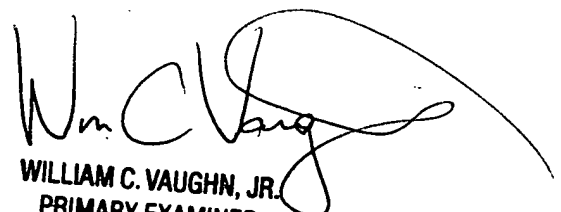
9000.

Jude Jean-Gilles

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2143

JJG

November 23, 2005

WILLIAM C. VAUGHN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER